

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 and claims 9-21 are pending in the application, and new claim 21 added with the present Amendment.

Claims 1, 9, 10 and 14 have been amended to correct the indefiniteness lack of antecedent and failure to comply with the written requirements noted by; the Examiner in rejecting the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112 and objecting of the specification.

It is believed that each of these grounds has been addressed and corrected by the present Amendment. Other informalities noted have been corrected.

The claims have also been amended to better distinguish over the references cited and more particularly, the principal reference relied on, Eversole, U.S. Patent No. 4,750,411.

While the opening is now recited as larger than the duct (and collar), this relationship was clear from the drawings and is not new matter. The terminology has been slightly amended in the claims in the interest of clarity, and the specification has been amended correspondingly. No new matter has been added.

In Eversole, the duct is contemplated as being installed before the finished ceiling is in place. See Col. 3, lines 61-65.

The register box can have openings cut therein matched to given duct sizes. As now claimed, the access opening is substantially larger than the duct so it can readily be pulled into the housing. In Eversole, the opening appears to be slightly smaller than the duct, and the duct could not be pulled into the interior of the box.

In addition, there is no separate "cover piece" having portions extending out from a collar configured to block the access opening when placed over the opening. Only a collar itself

is shown in Eversole extending through a hole slightly larger than the collar but smaller than the duct.

While the other references show particular subsidiary features, they do not show or suggest the basic arrangement claimed.

New method claim 21 has been added which is similar to the product claims and believed to basically distinguish over the prior art, in that the installation is carried out after the finished ceiling is installed. The duct is drawn into the access opening through the open bottom of the housing, and attached to a collar portion of a cover piece and both are pushed back up, the duct pushed out through the access opening and the piece positioned over the access opening and attached to the housing. None of the references remotely suggest this technique and claim 21 is also urged to be clearly patentable.

Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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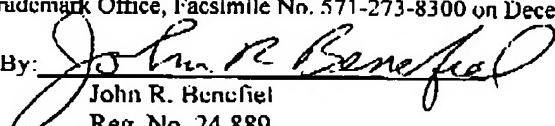
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It is hereby certified that this correspondence, along with any items referred to as being attached or enclosed, is being transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Facsimile No. 571-273-8300 on December 14, 2005.


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